GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3995
ANSWERED ON:21.04.2008
NATIONAL POLICY FOR LAND USE
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Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any National Policy on Land Use in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether soil management techniques like nutrient buffer power concept are not adequately recognized in the country;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the extent to which it affects our foodgrain output; and

(e) the steps being taken by the Union Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE(SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA)

(a) & (b): Government of India, Ministry of Rural Development, has set up a National Council for Land Reforms under the chairmanship of Prime Minister of India with a view to lay down broad guidelines and policy recommendations on agrarian relations and land reforms.The other members of the council include Union Ministers of Rural Development,Agriculture,Environment and Forests,Panchayati Raj,Tribal Affairs,Social Justice & Empowerment,Deputy Chairman Planning Commission,Chief Ministers of Andhra Pradesh,Bihar,Karnataka,Kerala,Maharastra,Orissa,Rajasthan, Tripura,Uttar Pradesh,West Bengal,other distinguished members and Secretary, Department of Land Resources, Ministry of Rural Development as Member Secretary.

(c) to (e): As per Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), the soil fertility evaluation based on nutrient buffer power concept is well recognized in the country.However, its application in regular soil testing programme does not find a place due to its complex and cumbersome methodology. In view of above, ICAR has developed simple, cheap and quick soil fertility evaluation methods like soil testing to estimate external plant nutrient demand for better agricultural output. ICAR also recommends soil test based balanced and integrated nutrient management through conjunctive use of both inorganic and organic sources of plant nutrients to sustain good soil health and higher crop productivity.

Government of India is implementing a Centrally Sponsored Scheme on Balanced & Integrated Use of Fertilizer through Macro Management of Agriculture for promoting soil test-based application of chemical fertilizers and strengthening of soil testing facilities as well as for setting up of compost plants for conversion of biodegradable city waste into organic manure. In addition to above two new Centrally Sponsored Schemes, namely, National Project on Management of Soil Health & Fertility and National Project on Organic Farming have been started for promoting use of organic manure, market development of organic farming and also for maintenance of soil fertility in the country.